

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OPR-02

RSR-01 /104 W

----- 001231

R 222248 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3806

INFO USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: MORE VIOLENCE

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: SANTIAGO 1132

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NEW CLASHES HAVE OCCURRED. THOSE OF MAR 20 AND MAR 22 INVOLVED POLICE, USING TEAR GAS AND NIGHT STICKS, DISPERSING PROTESTING GROUPS OF POBLADORES AND WORKERS IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO. CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND SOCIALIST PARTISANS MAR 19 LEFT PS OFFICES IN LA FLORIDA SUBURB OF SANTIAGO IN EMBERS. PUBLIC ATTENTION ALSO FOCUSING ON DEATH OF WORKER IN CONCEPCION MAR 20, ALLEGEDLY IN CONNECTION WITH THEFT OF GOVT EQUIPMENT USED FOR JAMMING TRANSMISSIONS OF OPPOSITION TV CHANNEL 13 AFFILIATE. LEVEL OF INCIDENTS CAUSING SOME CONCERN BUT NO EVIDENCE SO FAR OF ORGANIZED VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. CLASH MORNING MAR 22 BETWEEN POLICE AND SOME 200 RESIDENTS OF " ANGELA DAVIS" SQUATTER SETTLEMENT IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO LEFT ONE POBLADOR INJURED, POSSIBLY BY GUNSHOT. CARABINEROS MADE LIBERAL USE OF TEAR GAS IN DISPERSING DEMONSTRATORS.

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POBLADORES WERE PROTESTING LACK OF SUITABLE HOUSING, AND MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO " SEIZE" OFFICE OF CORHABIT , A GOVT HOUSING AGENCY.

3. MORNING MAR 20 SEVERAL HUNDRED WORKERS OF SUMAR NYLON TEXTILE MILL DISPERSED BY CARABINEROS USING TEAR GAS AND NIGHT STICKS FROM IN FRONT OF CENTRAL BANK IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO. SEVERAL DEMONSTRATORS HURT. WORKERS WERE PROTESTING BANK'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR IMPORTATION OF RAW MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR ORDERLY FUNCTIONING OF FACTORY. CLASH OCCURRED WHILE LEADERS OF DEMONSTRATION WERE DISCUSSING PROBLEM WITH CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ALFONSO INOSTROZA. WORKERS CLAIMED THEY HAD AGREED WITH CARABINERO OFFICERS TO DISBAND PEACEFULLY, AND THEIR SPOKESMAN PROTESTED POLICE " ATTACK" (" A RETURN TO THE BAD OLD DAYS") TO UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR DANIEL VERGARA, WHO PROMISED INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHO GAVE ORDER TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS. COMMUNIST EL SIGLO REPORTED THERE WAS " PROFOUND UNEASINESS" IN TRADE UNION CIRCLES OVER THE INCIDENT.

4. LATE EVENING MAR 19 CLASH BETWEEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) AND SOCIALISTS (PS) IN SANTIAGO SUBURB OF LA FLORIDA RESULTED IN TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF LOCAL PS OFFICE BY FIRE. INCIDENT BEGAN IN AFTERNOON WHEN GROCERY STORE ABUTTING PS OFFICE ALLEGEDLY RAN OUT OF GOODS AND PEOPLE WAITING IN LINE BEGAN TO PROTEST. PRO- GOVT PRESS CLAIMED PDC " PROVOCATEURS" INSTIGATED PROTEST, THEN BEGAN EXCHANGING INSULTS WITH PS MEMBERS NEXT DOOR. INTERMITTENT SCUFFLING BETWEEN TWO GROUPS WAS FOLLOWED BY FULL- SCALE " ATTACK" ON PS BUILDING IN WHICH PDC GROUP ALLEGEDLY USED MOLOTOV COCKTAILS TO BURN BUILDING. PDC GROUP THEN FLED, STONING LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY (PCCH) OFFICE AND A MEAT MARKET ON THE WAY.

5. COMMUNIST EL SIGLO CLAIMED 19 PS AND 5 PCCH MEMBERS WERE HURT IN INCIDENT, INCLUDING SOME BY SHOTGUN PELLETS. EL SIGLO LINKED CLASH TO LA REINA INCIDENT THREE DAYS EARLIER (REFTTEL) AND CLAIMED THAT PDC DEPUTY- ELECT CARLOS DUPRE (FORMER MAYOR OF LA REINA) AND PRESENT LA REINA MAYOR EDUARDO SAN MARTIN WERE BOTH PRESENT IN LA FLORIDA AS " INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS OF PDC ASSAULT." ANGRY PS STATEMENT CHARGED GOAL OF " FASCIST ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE" IS TO HID MAR 4 ELECTORAL DEFEAT AND WARNED THAT PS IS PREPARED TO FIGHT BACK IF NECESSARY. PS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEC GEN CARLOS ALTAMIRANO AND PS DEPUTY MARIO PALESTRO

SPOKE AT PS RALLY AT BURNED SITE EVENING MAR 21 WHICH TRANSPIRED WITH ONLY MINOR INCIDENTS. PDC LA PRENSA CLAIMED PS STARTED INCIDENT BY THREATENING MOTHER OF LOCAL PDC LEADERS, RECEIVED REINFORCEMENTS FROM NEARBY MIR SQUATTER CAMPS AND GOVT AUTHORITIES, THEN MOUNTED " A NEW PUBLICITY SHOW" OVER FIRE WHICH WAS DUE TO " LARGE AMOUNT OF INFLAMMABLE OBJECTS" INSIDE PS OFFICE.

6 SANTIAGO PRESS IS DEVOTING MAJOR ATTENTION TO MURDER OF WORKER IN CONCEPCION MAR 20 WHICH MAY BE LINKED TO DISAPPEARANCE OF GOVT ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT USED TO JAM TRANSMISSIONS OF TV CHANNEL 5, AFFILIATE OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY' S CHANNEL 13 IN SANTIAGO (OF SANTIAGO 1177). POLICE MAR 21 SEARCHED CHANNEL 5, OFFICES LOCATED IN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY CONCEPCION BUILDING ALLEGEDLY OWNED BY LOCAL CATHOLIC DIOCESE, THEREBY PROVOKING CRITICISM IN OPPOSITION PRESS. UP MEDIA, MEANWHILE, CLAIMED CHANNEL 13 DIRECTOR FATHER RAUL HASBUN WAS IN CONCEPCION WEEKEND BEFORE CRIME, IMPLYING HE HAD PLANNED RAID TO STEAL AND DESTROY JAMMING EQUIPMENT. PRINCIPAL SUSPECT ACCORDING TO EL SIGLO IS ONE DAVID PENA, ALLEGEDLY A CHANNEL 13 EMPLOYEE AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT IN CONCEPCION WHO IS PURPORTEDLY CLOSE TO HASBUN.

7. COMMENT . THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ABOVE INCIDENTS AND THOSE REPORTED IN REFTEL ARE PART OF SOME CONSPIRACY TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE OF UNREST AND CIVIL COMMOTION, AS BOTH GOVT AND OPPOSITION ARE HINTING. RATHER, EACH INCIDENT APPEARS TO BE AD HOC, UNCOORDINATED EVENT REFLECTING INTENSITY OF CURRENT POLITICAL PASSIONS. HOWEVER, THESE INCIDENTS COUPLED ITH TWO SPECTACULAR AND APPARENTLY NON- POLITICAL MURDERS ARE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC COMMENT AND SOME CONSTERNATION. SOME OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED THAT EFFECT IS TO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT ANY ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN PDC AND UP " CENTRISTS" (I. E. PCCH).
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